

A Bee Hive of Activity Is Centered About Torrance Municipal Airport

Field Now Is Equipped with Radio, Tower, Runway Lights

One of the busiest and most important areas in the city is the Torrance Municipal Airport. It is the chosen place for nearly 300 privately-owned light planes.

It is the home of several flying schools and charter services. It is the base for a large fleet of business-owned aircraft which local executives use to speed their traveling.

It is the site on which at least two companies are doing important research and development on new types of aircraft. One of them is a VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) aircraft in which the U.S. Army has shown great interest.

Another is a new type plane called the Ag-2 which is being designed primarily to fill such needs of agricultural aviation as crop-dusting.

that plan in their everyday activities.

"We are working each day to try to clear the field of surplus facilities left by the Army and to relocate other buildings to positions where they would be in the way of the development plan," Egan said.

He said another important activity at the airport in the near future will be the execution of a plan proposed by E. E. Wilson.

Wilson's plan would provide the airport with a terminal which would house the airport offices and control tower and also offices for rent.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Wilson's project is reported in detail in a separate article in this edition.)

Elks Proclaim Youth Day

Changes Occurring

Because the airport is the important center of all these and many other activities, it is constantly undergoing changes calculated to make it more modern and more efficient.

Last March 1 the City assumed direct responsibility for operation of the airport and appointed 41-year-old Jack Egan as Airport Manager.

Egan, who is an experienced flyer with a background of 11 years in supervising airport operations, is the man who is overseeing and guiding the changes taking place at the field.

He in turn is guided by a master plan which Quinon Engineers prepared for the airport's development.

New Lighting System

Part of that master plan is the installation of an integrated lighting system, Egan said.

Included in the system will be a control tower, rotating beacon, runway and taxiway lights.

"The control tower was completed and put into operation on April 2," Egan said. "The runway lights are in, the rotating beacon is nearing completion, and negotiations are underway for the installation of taxiway lighting."

The tower is the nerve center for the control of all aircraft traffic at the field and uses two-way radio primarily. For planes not equipped with radio, the control tower operator makes use of a light gun which flashes signals in red, green, and white.

The tower is in operation from 10 a.m. until sunset.

The rotating beacon will identify the field as a usable airport, said Egan, but it will not be put into use immediately when ready.

"We'll wait until the entire integrated system is completed," he said, adding that he expects the taxiway lights to be installed by Fall.

"It just isn't prudent to encourage night flying here without this system of integrated lighting in operation," the airport manager said.

Other Personnel

Besides Egan, the city-engaged personnel at the airport include an assistant airport manager, Bill Critchfield, who is responsible primarily for aircraft operations and maintenance of the airport facility.

Other personnel are two airport attendants who assist with the operation and maintenance duties; and two control tower operators.

Prior to assumption of airport management by the city, the field was operated by Edward Dietrich Jr., president and general manager of Collins and Dietrich, Inc.

The airport, built by the government in 1941 and 1942 to serve as a P-38 base, has a 5,000 foot runway. After World War II, the War Assets Administration turned the field over to city use with the understanding that it would be used only as an airport. A recapture clause in the agreement which says that the government can take the field back if the city does not live up to these conditions assures its future use as an airfield.

Over 70 Hangars

The airport still has the huge nose hangar left over from the war years, and approximately 50 individual hangars and 12 large hangars.

The Master Plan for the airport's development did call for the extension of the existing runway. To permit that the plan asked for the acquisition of an additional 125 acres to the north and west of field.

Funds for the purchase of that land were not made available, however, and that part of the plan has been shelved, at least temporarily.

Questions about the largest aircraft which the field could accommodate, Egan replied that it is not suited for large, multi-engine planes.

Accommodates DC-3 Type

It is not simply the length of the runway which affects the suitability of field for larger aircraft, but also other considerations such as obstacles projecting into the approach path.

"The largest plane that would be comfortable in here would be one of the DC-3 Type," Egan said.

Despite the fact that some steps in the Master Plan cannot be accomplished at this time, however, Egan and his assistants are nevertheless guided by

Three years ago, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks proclaimed May 1 of each year as "Elks' National Youth Day."

In contrast to the shows of armed might in the Communist dominated countries on May Day, the Order of Elks has set aside this day as a day for the youth of our country to show the world the difference between real freedom and Communist oppression.

It is mandatory that each subordinate lodge of the order, which consists of more than 1900 lodges, observe "Elk's National Youth Day" with a program for the youths in their respective jurisdictions.

This year, since May 1 falls on Thursday, Torrance Lodge 1948 will conduct their program on Saturday, May 8, in conjunction with the official opening of the Little League baseball season. The program will be conducted by Walter Mishler and Herman Sneekin, chairmen of the lodge youth activities committee, and will take place between the first and second games at the Little League baseball park on Del Amo Blvd. Many surprises are in store for the youngsters.

Young Democrats Meet Sunday

Torrance Young Democrats Club will meet at 7:30 Sunday night in the UAW headquarters, Crenshaw and Lomita blvds., to hear a report from Program Chairman Johnnie Crawford concerning the Glen Anderson (candidate for lieutenant governor) rally to be held at the Civic Auditorium Sunday, May 11. The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

The newly organized group also plans to show a movie of Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers Union, when he appeared before the Kefauver Senate Committee on racketeering.

President Hank Carreiro will give a report on the California Federation of Young Democratic Clubs and their convention to be held in Los Angeles the first week of July.

"We plan to sponsor a resolution for state loans to be made available to all high school graduates who wish to attend college but are financially unable to do so," Carreiro stated. The loans would be patterned after the G. I. schooling program but the money would have to be repaid one year after graduation from college or the termination of schooling, and on an installment plan, which includes a low interest rate to cover the cost to the state, he speaker continued.

Membership Drive

The new club is currently preparing to launch a membership drive among all young people between the ages of 17 and 21 primarily.

"We feel that this group has the right to make its voice heard even if it lacks the vote," the president stated. "I appeal to all the young people of Torrance to join us and get behind this drive to obtain state loans for education and show the parents and leaders of America that where Russia gives her students handouts, we are willing to pay our way through school."

Lodge Will Initiate Class

Torrance Rebekah lodge made final plans Wednesday night for the initiation of a class of candidates into the organization.

Mrs. Edna Ferrin, noble grand, called the meeting to order in the Torrance Masonic Temple, 2328 Cabrille ave.

Practice of ritualistic work was held after the business meeting.

Trilo Odd Fellow Lodge 495 recently entertained the Rebekahs and friends at a pot luck dinner, followed by a short program, to honor the fourth birthday of the group.

Paige Hurley acted as master of ceremonies and introduced James Van Dyke and the Torrance Youth Band, who gave a fine performance on various musical instruments.

Dancing concluded the evening's entertainment.



WINNER OF SOUTHWEST SAVINGS ANNIVERSARY CONTEST—A happy day for Edward Conroy, right, of 2530 Lesserman, when he was announced grand prize winner of Southwest Savings' Penny Guessing Contest held recently as part of the Association's anniversary celebration.

Conroy, supervisor of the Long Beach naval shipyard, lives in Torrance. Presenting the new Hotpoint TV console is John A. Tweedy, vice-president and manager of Southwest Torrance office, assisted by Miss Lynda Reedes.

KNOW YOUR REALTOR

Frances Real Estate and Insurance, 2276 Torrance Blvd., is owned and operated by Frances Dimitri, capably assisted by Gertrude Schwartz.

Frances has been in the real estate business since 1946 and in her present location since 1951. She loves her work and finds it very fascinating and interesting. This is reflected in the fact that she has had a terrific amount of repeat sales.

Only recently Frances resold the house which her first customer bought shortly after she started business.

Another interesting deal was that in which she sold a house for a man who had lived in it for 18 years, then resold the same house four more times. Each sale was for a legitimate reason, death, transfer, investment. Each customer was well satisfied with the house.

She handles property for those unable to care for the details personally. In one case she was hired to rent a home for a period of six months while the owners were in Egypt. The six-month stay turned into a five-year stay and then a permanent one. The owners decided to have her sell the property.

The company handles general insurance, fire insurance, and specializes in residential properties. Last year Frances handled a \$64,000 sale for an industrial acreage in the Torrance area.

Before entering the real estate business, Frances ran a 200-acre turkey ranch near Hemet. She was born in Dallas where her father was a prominent business man for 35 years.

Frances belongs to all the local real estate clubs, is a member of National Real Estate, the California Real Estate, an associate of the Torrance-Lomita board, and belongs to the Women's division of the Realtors.

Last week Frances attended the 11th annual educational and sales conference. She helped train for her work by taking a special real estate course at UCLA.

She has been active in local clubs, is a past president of the Lioness Club, a past officer of the Torrance Woman's Club, the Chiropodists, has been a member of the BPW and is now a member of the YWCA and the Altar Society of the Catholic church.

World Trip

One of Frances' most pleasant memories is of a trip she took in 1955 which combined a motor trip through the eastern United States and a flight to Europe. She was accompanied on part of the motor trip by the Oswald Jacobys of Dallas and they stayed for a few days with retired

Rear Admiral Fletcher and his wife in their beautiful old farm house which was built in 1645.

During the European trip Frances took in eight countries but the highlight of them all was her trip to St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome.

Local Assistant

Gertrude Schwartz, who has been with Frances since 1951, has lived in the Torrance area for 35 years. She went to Torrance schools and is widely known through the area.

At one time she too raised poultry and just before entering the real estate business was in the grocery business as the Keystone Market.

She is married and has two children and two grandchildren.

Clubs Unite for City-Wide Show

Torrance Terrace Garden Club, North Torrance Fuchsia Society and the Torrance Recreation Department are combining to present a joint hobby, art and flower show May 16-18 at the Civic Auditorium.

Those wishing to enter displays are asked to contact the chairmen, Miss Marilyn Jensen of the Torrance Recreation Department, FA 8-4108, for art entries; Mrs. Frank Hinkel, 18503 Crenshaw, DA 9-1427, or Mrs. W. Hunter, 24464 Ocean ave., FR 8-1375, for hobby; Mrs. Victor Benstead, 1616 Beech ave., FA 8-1237, Mrs. Phillip Clark, 3211 W. 166th st., DA 3-5531, or Mrs. Ida Hechinger, 17038 Faysmith/DA 3-1023, for flower show entries.

All entries must be registered not later than Friday, May 9. There will be no fee or admission charge.

Exhibits will be arranged May 5 and all must be in place by noon May 6.

The flower section will have 10 classes of entries, including amateur and professional and children's entries by boys and girls from 3-8 years and from 9-15 years.

Children will not be forgotten in the hobby displays either, as there are sections for their collections, ceramics, woodwork, metalwork, models and miscellaneous. There will be special awards for them and honorable mention.

Adult displays will be in many classifications, including culinary art, sugar art, ceramics, china painting, rugs and weaving, needlework, woodwork, models, flowermaking, leather work and collections of all kinds. Art displays will be by both adults and children in oil paint-

Scouts Speak for Badges

Following completion of an eight-weeks course in public speaking, sponsored by the Torrance Toastmasters Club, 14 area Boy Scouts were honored with a recognition dinner April 16 at the Western club.

The evening's program was presided over by A. F. Benscheld, activities chairman for the Harbor district. Invocation was given by Otto Peasner, area governor of Toastmasters.

The Scouts took the course to earn their public speaking merit badges, which were presented following a five-minute speech by each boy on some phase of Scouting.

Ranging from first class to Eagle rank, the following boys received their badges:

Paul Brown, Larry Hill and Ron Koller, Troop 202; Warren Pesco, Troop 208; Kaysee Tsuli and Joe Zacker, Troop 218; Carl Benscheld, Troop 223; Jack Day, Claude Buell, Bill Osborne, Bobby Jones, Jerry Weeks, and Jim Peden, Troop 242; and Dick Olsen, Troop 676.

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Large Council Gives Greater Representation to Residents

Torrance emerged the municipal big leagues this month when residents were able to elect their mayor directly for the first time in the city's history, and enjoy greater representation through two additional councilmen.

The change, designed to give greater participation in city government, was approved in the form of charter amendments last October.

The changes had to be approved by the State Legislature, which rushed them through in time for the April 8 election.

Before the changes were made, the City Council had five members, who in turn elected the mayor from among their number.

Dates Set for Harbor College Entrance Exams

The entrance tests required of everyone who intends to enroll as a regular day student for the coming fall semester at Harbor College will be given only on specified dates between now and Sept. 2, and not after Sept. 2, according to an announcement made by William H. McManis, dean of admissions and guidance.

This accelerated test schedule is made necessary by increasing enrollments and the impossibility of processing late examination papers by Sept. 15, the last registration date for the fall 1958 semester.

In order to accommodate the additional manpower, the council chambers underwent some modification to provide more space for the seven-man council.

Boy, 4, Struck by Car

A 4-year-old boy was taken to Harbor General Hospital with head injuries Thursday after he was struck by an auto driven by Aurelio Acosta, 23, of 2207 Del Amo Blvd.

The boy, Frank Villa, of 2126 Del Amo Blvd., was struck near

CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT COSTS ARE GIVEN

Permanent improvement of Dominguez Channel will require construction of 25 bridges and relocation of four major railroad lines, H. E. Hedger, chief engineer of the County Flood Control District, said today.

Several of the bridges are located in the Torrance-Gardena area. The program will cost \$21,000,000 to complete, with the bridge work to cost \$4,352,000, and the balance allocated to deepen and widen the channel.

Open House for Perry Mothers

The home of Mrs. William D. Lunden, 3910 W. 176th st., will be opened for a coffee hour Thursday morning, May 1. All Perry Elementary School mothers are invited. The newly elected officers will be presented.

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PTA Enjoys Science Show

The language of flowers was used to express get-well wishes when the Walteria PTA sent a bouquet to their president, Mrs. J. J. Lawlor, who underwent emergency surgery. In her absence Mrs. Loring Bigelow, first vice-president, presided over the official board meeting and the general meeting of the Walteria PTA.

The April general meeting was well attended with the parents more than enjoying the Science Fair exhibitions set up by the upper grade pupils in the auditorium. The exhibitions portrayed a wide variety of interest in subjects from coal mining and oil production to rocket advances of today.

Girl Scout Troop 1400 led the flag salute and gave the inspirational message for the evening. The business meeting was short with coming projects announced.

The program was introduced by Mrs. Henry Fink Jr. and dealt with the United Nations. The film, "Assignment Children," starring Danny Kaye, was shown to demonstrate the Klink announced that the next month's program will be on the subject of music available to our children in school.

The May meeting will be held May 15 instead of May 8, since the president-elect, Mrs. Cass Russak, will be attending the state convention in Sacramento May 8.

Frank Taylor's room won the attendance award. Hosts for the evening were Mr. and Mrs. D. Howe, who served coffee and cake.

School Track Record Broken

Stephen White Junior High School track record was broken in the annual track meet Friday in the 75-yard dash which both C. Batsell and John McKee made in 9.1, and the 100-yard dash which Gary Grable made in 11.6. Total score for the meet was 60 1/2 for the 9-A team and 44 1/2 for the A-11 Stars.

Winner in the 50-yard dash was J. Milligan in the second heat, R. Hamilton, first heat; 50-yard shuttle relay, All Star team; 75-yard dash, C. Batsell, second heat, John McKee, first heat; 75-yard shuttle relay, A-9 team; 100-yard dash, G. Grable, 880 relay, All Stars, both first and second heat; 440-yard relay, A-9; shot putt, M. Velasquez; broad jump, D. Ramey; high jump, D. E. Spain.

DAIRIES MAY BE EVICTED

Dairies may be on their way out of Torrance, as result of action instituted by the city on complaint of residents. It is another chapter of the transformation of the old ranch lands to homes, business and industry.

ing, water colors, charcoal, pencil, photo and other mediums.